Location of Mount K-2

280. SHRIMATI USHA MALHOTRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the editorial 'Peaks Go Higher' appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' of 11th April, 1985 in which it has been stated that Mount K-2 falls in Pakistan;

(b) whether Government have accepted the claim of Pakistan on the part of Kashmir now under illegal occupation;

(c) if not, whether the Editor and Proprietor of the 'Hindustan Times' have been asked to apologize and publish the apology in the paper; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) No, Sir. The whole of the territory of the State of Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India. Mount K-2 is located in that area of Jammu and Kashmir, which is presently under the illegal occupation of Pakistan. The error was brought to the notice of the newspaper.

Outcome of the Indo-Pak. Ministerial Level Talks

281. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) What is the outcome of the last round of Indo-Pak. ministerial level talks held recently in Delhi;

(b) Whether the issue of opening up of Rajasthan side of the border in the Jaisalmer area was taken up, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the next round of talks is likely to be held?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) The salient aspects of the Second Session of the Indo-Pak. Joint Commission held in Delhi from July 2 to 4 are:—(i) the signing of an agreement on cooperation in agricultural research; (ii) consideration of the draft text for a Cultural Agreement; (iii) waiver of the requirement of Police reporting in respect of bonafide businessmen and holders of transit visas; (iv) finalisation of through railway booking facilities between designated railway stations with effect from 1st Oct., 1985; (v) agreement on setting up of a working group for cooperation in the field of planning, to be preceded by seminar in Islamabad on the same subject; (vi) agreement on exchange of information to check the illegal trafficking in narcotics; and (vii) exchange of Radio correspondents.

(b) India reiterated the need to reopen the Khokhrapar-Munabao checkpost in order to facilitate travel between India and Pakistan. Pakistan expressed its inability to agree to the Indian proposal, for the time being.

(c) The Third meeting of the Indo-Pak. Joint Commission will be held in Islamabad in 1986. Meanwhile, the four sub-commissions will meet before the end of this year, to review the progress.

Introduction of District Planning

282. SHRI BIJOY KRISHNA HANDIQUE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce the concept of district planning during the Seventh Five Year Plan; and

(b) whether functioning relationship between the districts and States has been worked out?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) The need for decentralisation of planning has been emphasized from plan to plan and the concept of district planning which was commended to